will have the feature of swinging 3600. The equipment proposed is similar in construction to that of a hydraulic excavator of 30 ton class with special features to withstand the severity of operation and also to meet some of the specific requirements required for development at disaster sites. Jumbo crusher, hydraulic shearer, rock breaker and scrap grapple are the four attachments.

(b) RADIO CONTROL SYSTEM:

Radio Control System provides method of controlling machine without physical connection between the operator and the machine. Design and development of the proposed equipment is basically multi disciplinary in nature in involving mechanical, pneumatic, hydraulic and control engineering systems. The operating system mainly comprises of handheld transmitter and vehicle mounted receiver.

(iii) Estabishment of TIFAC-Centre of Relevance & Excellence on Industrial Biotechnology at Karnataka Regional Engineering College, Surathkal.

(iv) Establishment of Hydrogen Economy Technology Development Program at RVCE-TIFAC Centre at RVCE, Bangalore: Development and implementation of projects aiming at generation, storage and application of hydrogen towards sustainable hydrogen economy.

Indian Science Congress in Lucknow

2207. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the 89th Indian Science Congress was inaugurated by the Prime Minister on 3rd January, 2002 in Lucknow;

(b) if so, what was the main purpose of this conference;

(c) whether the science policy was not announced in the conference; and

(d) if not, so, by when the same is likely to be announced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT): (a) Yes, Sir.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) The purpose of the annual session of the Indian Science Congress is for informal exchange of information among the scientists/technologists/ researchers of various levels. There are also presentation of papers/posters on the focal theme of the session. The focal theme of the 89th Session of Indian Science Congress was on "Health Care, Education & Information Technology". The Congress also formulates recommendations on the focal theme for consideration by the Government.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The draft of the new National Science & Technology Policy has been subjected to a wide ranging process of consultation and discussion before submission to appropriate levels in the Government for adoption and approval.

Biotechnology Development Board

2208. SHRI R. KAMARAJ: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal with Government to form the Biotechnology Development Board to support the process of commercialising new or available technologies;

(b) whether modalities for formaiton of this Board have been workd out; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT): (a) to (d) A National Biotechnology Board was formed in 1982 for identification of priority areas and evolving a long term plan in biotechnlogy as well as to initiate and promote such activities or the development of various areas in Biotechnology. With the establishment of a separate Department of Biotechnology in 1986, a further impetus was given to promote R&D and its appliction. In the 10th plan (2002—07) and Annual Plan 2002-03 of the department, proposals for setting up of a Biotechnology Development Fund to process and speed up commercialization of new Biotechnologies has been included and the same is under discussion with Planning Commission.